



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 143

TO: Monica Tonel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig, Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

Cc: Denise Mills, TAI – via Email

DATE: June 14, 2018

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 143 Month Ending May 2018

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Plant Tissue Study – During the month of May, samples collected during the spring event were processed by TAI’s contract laboratory and analysis began. TAI, EPA and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) coordinated on follow up from the spring sampling event and planning for the June sampling event.

Northern Pike Tissue Study - TAI agreed to bear the cost for the processing, shipping and analysis of northern pike fillet samples to generate data that will provide the basis for decisions by EPA with respect to the Human Health Risk Assessment, and support Washington Department of Health in its review of the potential need for a UCR northern pike fish advisory. As such, EPA delivered the draft quality assurance project plan (QAPP) and Field Sampling Plan (FSP) for the UCR Northern Pike Tissue Study to TAI on May 14, 2018 for review and comment. The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the FSP were delivered to TAI for review on June 1, 2018. At the time of writing, TAI submitted review comments and a redline strike-out (RLSO) version of the draft QAPP, FSP and SOPs showing further comments within the documents to EPA on June 5, 2018.

Soil Amendment Technologies Evaluation Study (SATES) – TAI continued coordination with the SATES team and Kira Lynch, Superfund Technology Liaison – Office of Research and Development office of Science and Policy during the month and continued working on the draft DSR for the Phase 1A Test Plot Selection and Characterization.

Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Toxicity Reference Value (TRV) Development:

Wildlife TRVs - TAI continued to review and evaluate comments received in a letter from EPA dated April 11, 2018 with comments from EPA and the Participating Parties on the interim draft Wildlife TRV document. Conference calls were held in May with EPA for TAI to seek clarification on certain comments.

Fish Diet TRVs – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated May 30, 2018 with comments from EPA and the Participating Parties on the interim draft Fish Diet TRV document delivered to EPA on March 15, 2018. TAI is currently reviewing and evaluating comments.

Soil TRVs – TAI held conference calls with EPA during the month of May to discuss TAI's proposed change in approach for soil TRVs to begin with the use of the ecological soil screening levels developed by the EPA. TAI agreed to document the change in approach and submit a memorandum to EPA in June.

Phase 3 Sediment Study – TAI delivered to EPA, the revised draft data quality objectives (DQOs) for DQOs 1 and 3 through 5 on May 8, 2018 in response to EPA comments TAI received on April 13, 2018. EPA submitted comments on these revised draft DQOs (1 and 3 through 5) to TAI on May 18, 2018 and a conference call was held on May 30, 2018 with EPA and TAI to clarify and work on resolution of comments specifically on DQO 1 (sediment facies mapping). At the time of writing, TAI delivered the draft final DQO 1 to EPA on June 1, 2018 and received an approval letter from EPA on June 4, 2018.

Draft Data Management Plan – TAI is in receipt of a letter dated February 16, 2018 with EPA's comments on the Draft 2010 Data Management Plan and received additional comments from EPA on February 28, 2018 via electronic mail. TAI is currently reviewing and evaluating the comments.

Background Soil Assessment – At the time of writing, TAI delivered the Preliminary Draft DQOs for Determination of Background Metal and Metalloid Concentrations in Upland Soils to EPA on June 1, 2018.

Delineation Study – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated May 25, 2018 transmitting EPA's Air Modeling Protocol Outline for the Delineation Study. TAI is currently reviewing and evaluating the outline and will be meeting with EPA in June to discuss the protocol as well as the preliminary draft DQOs for the study.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.